



*A Proclamation against the bringing in, dispersing, uttering and keeping of
Bulles from the Sea of Rome, and other Traiterous and sedicious
Libels, Bookes and Pamphlets.*



He Queenes most excellent Maiestie, considering with her selfe how mercifully Almighty God hath by the space of many yeeres preserved her highnesse most Royal person, and this her Realme & other her Dominions, against diuers and manifold most dangerous practises, as well of the Pope, and other forreigne enemies, as of sundrie disloyall, rebellious and traiterous persons, being naturall borne Subjects of this Realme, who haue not ceased by all possible meanes they could deuise, to compass the destruction of her Maiestie, and the utter ruine and ouerthrow of this State and Common weale. For the effecting whereof, they haue contriued and layde sundrie complots, not onely for the inuasion of the Realme by forreigne enemies, but also to moue and stirre by sedition and rebellion at home, by withdrawing her Subjects from their loyall and due obedience, and by preparing them to betray their owne naturall Countrey, & most unnaturally to ioyne with forreigne enemies, in the spoyle and destruction of the same. For which vngodly and wicked purpose (as it hath evidently appeared and bene fully prooued) so many Jesuites and Seminarie Priests and other persons of like qualitie, haue by direction of the Pope bene of late yeres sent into the Realme: By whom and their Adherents, sundry false, slanderous, and seditious rumors and reports, tending wholly to moue the peoples hearts to discontentment and offence, haue bene commonly bruted and giuen out, and diuers seditious and traiterous Libels, Bookes and writings, haue bene also by them published and scattered abroad. Whereupon her Maiestie foreseeing in her Princely wisdom the dangerous consequent of such malicious and traiterous practises, hath heretofore by seuerall Proclamations notified the same to her louing Subjects, forbidding thereby the publishing, hauiing or keeping of any such seditious Libels, Bookes or writings, within any her Realmes or Dominions. And her Maiestie nowe finding, that the malice as well of the Pope and other her forreigne enemies, as of her rebellious and traiterous Subjects liuing in the partes beyond the Seas, is more and more increased, and that they haue bene of long time secretly leuying and preparing great forces and Armies to inuade this Realme, and other her Maiesties Dominions, with purpose to put the same in speedie execution by all possible meanes, thereby utterly to ouerthrowe our most happy estate, and this flourishing common weale, and to subiect the same to the proude, seruile, and slauiish gouernment of forreiners and strangers. And hauing also certaine intelligence, that Sixtus the last now Pope of Rome, hath of late published and set forth a most malicious and detestable Bull or Libell against her Maiestie, and her most gracious and peaceable gouernment, and against all her louing, duetiful, and faithfull subjects: and that sundry other most false, slanderous, and traiterous Libels, Bookes and Pamphlets are lately also contriued, written and printed by diuers sedicious and traiterous persons, with purpose to be in couert and secret maner dispersed throug this Realme, wherein they doe not onely goe about with most false and abhominable lyes to slander and dishonour her Maiestie, and the present most happy and quiet state and gouernement, but also by subtile and pestilent perswasions to withdraw her Highnesse subjects from their due obedience, and to excite and stirre by the people to take armes against God and their Souereigne, and to ioyne with the forreigne enemies, & so to betray and yeeld themselves, their parents, kindred and children, and their religion, countrey, and Common weale, to be subjects and slaues to Aliens and strangers. Therefore her Highnesse thinketh good to admonish her louing, good and faithfull subjects, to continue in humble feare and seruice to Almighty God, in their loyall and duetifull obedience to her

Maistie, and in their faithfull readinesse to defend themselves and their Countrey against all forreigne enemies and rebellious traytors whatsoever. And doubteth not, but by Gods mercifull goodnesse (vpon which she both alwayes, and both onely depend) with the strength which God hath giuen her, to withstand their malice, and to preserve her good subiects, and her Realmes and Dominions from all dangers. Neuerthelesse, least any other people should be seduced, or their simplicitie abused by the false perswasions or malicious surmises contained in the said infamous and slanderous Bulls, Libels, Bookes and pamphlets: Her Highnesse doth by this her Maisties Proclamation straightly charge and commaund, that no person whatsoever, shall conuey, cary, or bring into any of her Maisties Realmes or dominions, any of the said Bulls, or any transcript or copy thereof, or any the said Libels, Bookes, Pamphlets or writings, nor shall in any wise disperse or vtter any of the same. And that all such persons, to whose hands any such Bull, or any transcript or copy thereof, or any of the sayde Libels, Bookes, Pamphlets or writings, eyther hath come, or shall hereafter at any time come, doe presently with al convenient speed, without shewing the same to any person, send or deliuer it to some one of her Highnes priuy Counsell, if any such be within xx. miles, or if it be aboue that distance of miles from the Court, then to the Lieutenant, or to his deputie of the same shire for the time being where the partie shall be, that hath or shal haue any such Bull or any transcript or copy thereof, or any such Libell, Booke, Pamphlet or writing. And that the same Lieutenant or his Deputie, to whose hands any such Bull, or any such transcript or copie thereof, or any such Libell, Booke, Pamphlet or writing shall come: shall without delay, and with all convenient speede, safely sende the same to the Lordes of her Maisties priuy Counsell. And that euery person, to whome any such Bull, or any Transcript or copie thereof, or any such Libell, Booke, Pamphlet or writing shall be hereafter deliuered, offered or shewed, shall immediatly apprehend and put in safe keeping the partie so deliuering, offering or shewing the same, if hee bee of power and able so to doe: to the ende that euery such offender may bee soorth comming, to be speedily proceeded vpon and punished for the sayde offence, according to the tenor of this her Maisties Proclamation. Or for lacke of such abilitie, shall with al convenient speede disclose the name and dwelling place, or place of resort of the partie so offending, to some Justice of Peace of the Shire, where any such offence shalbe committed: who shal thereupon immediatly cause the party so offending to be apprehended & put in safe keeping as aforesaid.

And her Maisties further pleasure and expresse commandement is, that if any person shall wittingly and willingly offende in, or touching the bringing in, dispersing, vttering, or malicious hauing or keeping of any such Bull, or of any Transcript or Copie thereof, or of any the said Libels, Bookes or pamphlets, contrary to this her Maisties Proclamation: that euery such offender shall with all seueritie bee proceeded against, and punished according to the Martiall Law by her Maisties Lieutenants, or by their Deputies, by direction from the same Lieutenants in that behalfe within the seuerall limits and precincts of their seuerall Commissions of Lieutenancie, and shall suffer such paines and punishments in that behalfe, as by the saide Lieutenants or their Deputies, by such direction as is aforesaid, or any of them within their said Limits and Precincts, shalbe inflicted vpon them, and that thereupon also the goods and chattels of euery such offender, shall be confiscate and forfeited to her Maistie. And for the better execution of this present Proclamation, her Maistie doeth not onely graunt and commit full power and authoritie to all and euery her saide Lieutenants and their Deputies, hauing such direction as is aforesaid: but doeth also hereby straitely charge and commaunde them, and euery of them, to proceede against the offenders aforesaid, with all diligence and seueritie according to the said Martiall Lawe. And further granteth by these presents, that none of her said Lieutenants or their Deputies, shall in any wise be impeached in body, lands or goods, at any time hereafter, for any thing to be done or executed in the punishing of any such offenders according to the saide Martiall Lawe, and the tenor of this her Highnesse Proclamation, any Lawe or Statute to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. And for the better discouerie of the said offences and the more speedie apprehension of such Traiterous, seditious, and wicked persons, as after admonition giuen by this her Highnesse Proclamation, shall presume maliciously and wilfully to offende against the same: her Maistie straitly chargeth and commandeth as well all her saide Lieutenants and Deputies and euery of them, as all and euery her Judges, Sheriffes, Justices of Peace, Maiors, Bailiffes, and all other her Officers & ministers, and good and louing Subiects, that they shall with all care & diligence in all places, as wel exempt as not exempt, enquire and search for all such Bulls, Transcripts, Copies, Libels, Bookes and Pamphlets, and for al such persons whatsoever as shal bring in, publish, disperse, or vtter any of the same Bulls, Transcripts, Copies, Libels, Bookes, or Pamphlets, and them to arrest and apprehende and to put in safe keeping, that they may bee speedily proceeded

against for the said offences, according to the Partiall Lawe as is aforesaid. And her Maiestie is pleased that all persons as shall apprehend or detect any such offender against this Proclamation as is aforesaid, whereby the same offender may be forth comming to be proceeded upon, and to receive punishment according to the quality of the offence, shall have the moitie of all the goods and chattels of the same offender which shall be so apprehended or detected by them. And in case any Sheriffe, Maio, Justice of Peace, or other publique and inferiour officer, or any other to whom it shall or may appertain, shall be found remisse or negligent in the due execution of this proclamation: then the said partie or parties so offending, shall be brought before the Lordes & others of her highnesse Privie Counsell, to receive punishment for that remissnesse and contempt, as shall appertain to the nature and qualitie of the same offence.

And finally, her Maiestie of her most gracious and mercifull disposition, doeth hereby signifie to all her loving Subjects, that her will and pleasure is, that they nor any of them shall be molested, troubled, or impeached for any offence heretofore passed in the receiving or having of any of the said Buls, Transcripts, Copies, Libels, Bookes, or pamphlets, so as they do deliver the same according to the effect and true meaning of this Proclamation, & so as it do appeare that they have bene no authours, bringers in, setters forth, dispersers, or maintainers of the same Buls, Transcripts, Copies, Libels, Bookes or pamphlets. And her Maiestie willet and graunteth, that this highnesse Proclamation shall be a sufficient warrant to all her saide Lieutenants and their Deputies, and all and every her Judges, Sheriffes, Justices of Peace, Ministers and Officers, and all other her loving Subjects whatsoever, to proceede in the due execution of the premises, according to the tenor of the same Proclamation. And therefore her Maiesties wil and pleasure is, that the same shall be made and published vnder her great Seale of Englande. Given at her Highnesse Mannour of Greenwich, the first day of July 1588. in the xxx. yeere of her raigne.

God saue the Queene.

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Christopher Barker, printer to the Queenes
most excellent Maiestie.

Anno 1588.

Cum privilegio Regiæ Maiestatis.